

The Messenger

First & Wesley
United Methodist Church
89 Center Street
West Haven, Connecticut 06516
203-933-8795

November 2024



Discovering Grace Even in Suffering



Because of Thanksgiving Day, November is often referred to as the month of gratitude, a theme frequently mentioned in church. Yet, when we look closely, we may find ourselves complaining more than being thankful in our daily lives. Why is it that we often struggle to give thanks? Because there are difficulties we face in life—accidents, illness, financial difficulties, and relationship problems—these often weigh heavily on our hearts, making gratitude feel distant.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul writes, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." This verse highlights the power of gratitude—not just for the good things in life, but in every situation. However, this is no easy command. How can we possibly be thankful even in the midst of suffering? I am reminded of a hymn I often sang as a child, "*When Upon Life's Billows*."

*When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.*

This hymn encourages us to count our blessings, even when life feels like a storm. In moments of hardship and discouragement, we are reminded to reflect on the blessings we have received. And as the hymn promises, we will be surprised at all that the Lord has done in our lives.

In our Methodist tradition, there is a concept called "prevenient grace." This is the grace that God gives us even before we are aware of it. We have already received abundant grace through God's acts of creation, salvation, and God's constant presence with us. This remains true even in times of suffering. God walks with us through our trials and helps us overcome them.

This is why we can still give thanks. Our lives are filled with God's grace. Even in the face of suffering, cultivating a habit of gratitude—by counting the blessings and grace that God has already bestowed upon us—enables us to live a richer and more fulfilling life of faith. Amen.

Pastor Jinha Choi
First & Wesley United Methodist Church

Lectioary Readings for October 2024

November 3, 2024

[Ruth 1:1-18](#), [Psalm 146](#), [Hebrews 9:11-14](#), [Mark 12:28-34](#)



November 10, 2024

[Ruth 3:1-5](#); [4:13-17](#), [Psalm 127](#), [Hebrews 9:24-28](#), [Mark 12:38-44](#)

November 17, 2024

[1 Samuel 1:4-20](#), [1 Samuel 2:1-10](#), [Hebrews 10:11-14 \(15-18\)](#), [19-25](#), [Mark 13:1-8](#)

November 24, 2024

[2 Samuel 23:1-7](#), [Psalm 132:1-12](#), [Revelation 1:4-8](#), [John 18:33-37](#)



2024 Christmas Altar Flowers Order Your Poinsettias

I (We) wish to order _____ Poinsettia(s) Plant(s) for the Altar at a suggested donation of \$10.00 each. Please make check out to First & Wesley United Methodist Church and write “flower fund” in the memo section on the check.

PLEASE PRINT

In Memory of: _____ and/or

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Telephone # _____

Taking Plant(s) home: Yes _____ Plant(s) give to Shut-in: _____

Orders are to be received by **Sunday, December 1st**. Please leave the completed form in the offering plate or mail to the church.



First & Wesley United Methodist Church

November

2024

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 10a-2p Fair Craft Day TURN YOUR CLOCKS BACK! |
| 3 10:00a Family Worship Service, Communion, Birthday/Anniversary celebration and Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) 11:30a Fair set-up | 4 10a-2p Fair set-up 7p Adult Monday school After School Prog | 5 5-7p Fair Set-Up 7p Healing Prayer Service in sanctuary No After School | 6 9-12 Bake Day 1 10-2p Fair Set-up 5p Youth Choir 7p Adult Group Study After School Prog | 7 10a-12p "K" Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir After School Prog All-day - Fair set-up | 8 7a-2p Bake Day 2 After School Prog 6-8p Fair set-up | 9 8a-3p Harvest Fair 3-5p Pack tag sale Baked goods+ upstairs |
| 10 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) Recognition of Veterans Blessing of Prayer Shawls 11:30 – Pack up gym | 11 10a-4p Fair clean-up 7p Adult Monday school No After School | 12 7p Finance After School Prog | 13 5p Youth Choir 7p Adult Group Study After School Prog | 14 10a-12p "K" Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir After School Prog | 15 7p Mission After School Prog | 16 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome |
| 17 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) Blessing of Mission Gift Cards | 18 7p Adult Monday school After School Prog | 19 After School Prog | 20 5p Youth Choir 7p Adult Group Study *Articles Due for the December Messenger After School Prog | 21 10a-12p "K" Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan's home 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir After School Prog | 22 After School Prog | 23 |
| 24 Thanksgiving Sunday UMC Student Day 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) Blessing of Commitments | 25 7p Adult Monday school After School Prog | 26 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir After School Prog | 27 No After School | 28 Happy Thanksgiving No After School | 29 No After School | 30 10a Set up Nativity scene |

For more information go to the church website at www.firstwesleyumc.org



FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee would like to thank all who have responded to God's love for us through your financial contributions to our ministry this year, as well as time, talent, energy, and prayer. Some items you supported are:

- A full-time Pastor to lead us on our spiritual journey, in worship, a weekly Bible Study, counseling, visitation, coordination with other churches, administration, and outreach.
- A Music Director who provides music for our worship services including the Adult Choir, the Hand Bell Choir, and the Youth Choir.
- A Sexton for regular cleaning of our church building.
- Missions and Outreach: support of the WHEAT food bank (including a special peanut butter collection), backpacks for students, Covenant to Care Thanksgiving and Christmas ShopRite gift cards and Christmas gifts for families in need, socks and underwear for the Columbus House shelter, a Diaper Drive, support of Native Americans, prayer shawls, free community meals (Agape, Kononia Café, Christmas and Easter Breakfasts, Cook-Out), a Halloween outreach event, etc. We have also supported United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) by providing funds for administration and disaster relief (recently for victims of hurricanes).
- A dedicated team of volunteers who have provided live and on-line Church services, and on-line Church meetings.
- A Christian education program available for children and adults; and a weekly Bible study.
- Maintenance and upkeep of our beautiful building which is a physical focal point for our ministry.

These are just some of the highlights. The main point is that your time talent and treasure supports our overall mission and ministry in some way, in nurturing our congregation and in reaching out to others in response to God's call to us.

The estimated cost of the personnel, utilities, maintenance, insurance, program, missions, office, and connectional expenses included in our Current Expense Budget for 2025 is \$197,000.

Our Commitment Campaign for 2025 starts October 27. Envelopes with a commitment card and a return envelope have been prepared for each member family or individual. We ask that you place your commitment card in the return envelope provided and either bring it to church and put in in the collection plate or mail it in by November 17, 2024 so that we can bless the cards on November 24.

Please note that making a commitment helps the Finance Committee assess the anticipated income for next year. However, we understand that individual circumstances can change through the year which may impact your ability to fulfill your commitment in some way. Speak to the Pastor about any concerns you may have.

Thank you!
The Finance Committee

Lay Leader Report

On October 20th, we had our Charge Conference at Mary Taylor United Methodist Church in Milford, CT. Our preliminary budget was approved as well as our slate of Nominations and Leadership for our various ministries. We received a certificate from the NYAC to thank us for paying our apportionments in full for 2023.

Harvest Fair Information

Our largest fundraiser, the Annual Harvest Fair, is set for Saturday, November 9, 2024. Here is a list of what we would like to have ready to make this year's fair another successful event!

- **Volunteers- people are our most wonderful asset. An hour or two spent helping would make the day run smoothly.** Help with pancakes in the am and or lunch at noon time, staffing booths, floaters. Please let Mary Rolfe know how you would be able to help! 😊
- Pre-fair set-up & post fair cleanup.
- Calling all bakers and lovers of sweet treats. We are planning to have our table of goodies to sell by our "sweet" volunteers.
- Raffle prizes – we made a bit of a change to our raffle last year by moving it upstairs. We think we will be moving the table to Kendall Hall this year if we have enough volunteers to oversee this booth.

Calendar of activities leading up to and after Fair day

- Saturday, Nov 2nd 10am - 2pm **craft making & tag sale drop off**
- Sunday, Nov 3rd - after worship **set up tables & fill gym with tag sale items**
- Monday, Nov 4th - 10 am **set up back of parking lot for outdoor gym for afterschool program.**
10am-2pm **organize tag sale items**
- Tuesday, Nov 5th - 5-7pm **set-up tables and organize tag sale**
- Wednesday, Nov 6th - 8am **making monkey bread**
10am-2pm **organize tag sale items and upstairs**
- Thursday, Nov. 7th – all-day – finish set-up
- Friday, Nov 8 - Baking pie day 7a-2p
2pm - Pies need to be transported upstairs to cool in fellowship hall.
6pm - We will need to package & transport pies downstairs to Kendall Hall for the fair on Saturday.
- Saturday, Nov 9 – 8am-3pm **FAIR DAY**
- Saturday, Nov 9 – 3-5pm **start cleaning up, especially in gym.**
- Sunday, Nov 10 after worship, **clearing Kendall Hall and gym.**
- Monday, Nov 11 no afterschool program. Finish clearing gym and Kendall Hall and start Fellowship Hall.

We are looking forward to making this a great day for all!

Adult Monday School

We meet on Monday nights at 7pm on Zoom. We have just started a new Book, Letters to the Church by Francis Chan. There are books in the church office for anyone who would like to join us every Monday for this time of discussion and fellowship. If you can make a donation towards the cost of the book, that would be appreciated but is not a requirement

Adult Bible Study

We meet on Wednesday night at 7pm on Zoom. We are using the book Claiming Identity. This is a study on the book of Esther. If you need a book and would like to join us on Wednesday evening, please contact Pastor Choi 973-590-7525

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Our mission project for November is Stop & Shop gift cards to families in need. These cards will be blessed on November 17th during our worship service. Some are given to our social worker, some are given to the Hill area of New Haven and some are given out by Pastor Choi. Contact Pastor Choi if you know of someone in need.

Every 3rd Saturday of each month – 5pm FREE Community meal followed by games.



Every Thursday – Koinonia Café, 10am-12pm **(in-person only)**

Please note: If you would like to help with this, please contact Judy Jennette or Myrna Clinton.



Prayer Shawl Ministry First and Wesley United Methodist Church

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, our next Prayer Shawl meeting will be one week earlier on **Nov 21, 2024 - 1PM** in person at the home of Edith Mulligan – 65 Messina Drive, Apt A761, East Haven, CT 06512. Prayer shawls are in the Church Office if someone needs one. Be sure to sign your name and the person it will go to.

You can also contact Edith Mulligan – (203) 821-7533 or Linda Kopec – (203) 804-2522. We are a small group and would love to have more people join us.

Anyone wishing to join is more than welcome to come.



Let's all "shower" Sue McMillian on her 90th birthday on November 4th! Her address is:

Susan McMillian
22 Masonic Avenue
Room 5—524
Wallingford, CT 06492

Holiday Gift Card Fundraiser (Order form on next page)

This gift card fundraiser is going to provide a way for you to support the mission and ministry of First & Wesley while spending what you normally spend on gift cards at Christmas. The way it works is very similar to the Stop & Shop and ShopRite gift card fundraisers we already do (if you would like to make use of this ongoing gift card fund raiser, please contact Dave or Helen Smith). You purchase the gift card and the church receives a percentage of the face value of what you bought.

The way it is slightly different is:

1. Fill in the order form in advance. There are 37 different retailers and restaurant choices to choose from and the % of the face value that the church will receive is indicated on the form on the next page.

2. Orders must be pre-paid and received no later that December 1st.

3. The gift cards would be available on December 8th after church.



GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

We are providing First & Wesley members and friends of the church an opportunity to buy gift cards for Christmas gifts and at the same time support the church financially. Simply fill out the form below & send form to First & Wesley Methodist Church, 89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516 or give to Helen Smith
ALL ORDERS need to be received by 12-1-2024

RAISERIGHT
ORDER FORM



Name _____

Phone # _____

E-mail (for confirmation) _____

cards ordered _____

Amount enclosed _____

Submit the order form to the church or Helen Smith by December 1st

Email order: fundraiser@firstwesleyumc.org

Ordered gift cards will be available for pickup starting on Sun. 12/10(after church)

All checks make payable to FWUMC - please put "gift card fundraiser" in memo line

| # | Store/Business | Amount | % earned | Subtotal | | # | Restaurant/Food | Amount | % earned | Subtotal |
|---|-----------------------|--------|----------|----------|--|---|--------------------|--------|----------|----------|
| | Amazon.com | \$25 | 1.60% | | | | Bob Evans | \$25 | 10.00% | |
| | Amazon.com | \$100 | 1.60% | | | | Buffalo Wild Wings | \$25 | 8.00% | |
| | Apple Store,Apple.com | \$25 | 5.00% | | | | Buffalo Wild Wings | \$50 | 8.00% | |
| | Barnes & Noble | \$10 | 8.00% | | | | Chili's | \$25 | 11.00% | |
| | Barnes & Noble | \$25 | 8.00% | | | | Chili's | \$50 | 11.00% | |
| | Best Buy | \$25 | 4.00% | | | | Cracker Barrel | \$25 | 8.00% | |
| | Best Buy | \$100 | 4.00% | | | | Dave & Buster's | \$25 | 13.00% | |
| | Boscov's | \$25 | 13.00% | | | | Dunkin Donuts | \$10 | 3.50% | |
| | Carter's | \$25 | 15.00% | | | | Dunkin Donuts | \$25 | 3.50% | |
| | CVS | \$25 | 6.50% | | | | Olive Garden | \$25 | 8.00% | |
| | CineMark Theaters | \$25 | 6.00% | | | | Olive Garden | \$100 | 8.00% | |
| | Dick's Sporting Goods | \$25 | 8.00% | | | | On the Border | \$25 | 11.00% | |
| | Dick's Sporting Goods | \$100 | 8.00% | | | | On the Border | \$50 | 11.00% | |
| | Game Stop | \$25 | 5.00% | | | | Outback Steakhouse | \$25 | 10.00% | |
| | Home Depot | \$25 | 4.00% | | | | Outback Steakhouse | \$50 | 10.00% | |
| | Home Depot | \$100 | 4.00% | | | | Panera Bread | \$25 | 8.00% | |
| | Ikea | \$25 | 5.00% | | | | Panera Bread | \$50 | 8.00% | |
| | Kohl's | \$25 | 7.00% | | | | Sonic | \$10 | 8.00% | |
| | Lowe's | \$25 | 6.00% | | | | Sonic | \$25 | 5.00% | |
| | Lowe's | \$100 | 6.00% | | | | Starbucks | \$10 | 4.50% | |
| | Mobil | \$50 | 1.50% | | | | Starbucks | \$25 | 4.50% | |
| | Shell | \$25 | 1.50% | | | | Subway | \$10 | 6.00% | |
| | Shell | \$50 | 1.50% | | | | Subway | \$50 | 6.00% | |
| | Staples | \$25 | 5.00% | | | | Taco Bell | \$10 | 5.00% | |
| | Target | \$25 | 2.50% | | | | Taco Bell | \$25 | 5.00% | |
| | Target | \$50 | 2.50% | | | | Texas Roadhouse | \$25 | 8.00% | |
| | Uber | \$25 | 3.00% | | | | Wendy's | \$25 | 6.00% | |
| | Walgreen's | \$25 | 5.00% | | | | | | | |
| | Walmart | \$25 | 2.50% | | | | | | | |
| | Walmart | \$50 | 2.50% | | | | | | | |



HARVEST FAIR

@ FIRST & WESLEY UMC

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 8AM - 3PM

Veterans receive free breakfast!

BREAKFAST

8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES

ADULT: \$8.00

KID (5-11): \$4.00

LUNCH

11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

DAVE'S FAMOUS CHILI & MORE

BOWL OF CHILI: \$5.00

MEATBALL SUB: \$4.00



BOOTHS

CRAFT / COOKIE WALK / HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS / JEWELRY
USED BOOKS / HUGE TAG SALE / CHILDREN'S AREA / AND MORE



First & Wesley United Methodist Church

89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516

203.933.8795 / www.firstwesleyumc.org

Wheelchair accessible - back of parking lot

Come - Eat - Shop - Enjoy



FREE COMMUNITY BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



Enjoy the Continental Breakfast, create a craft, FREE
mittens & hats, and photos with Santa (bring your camera!)



SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7TH
9-11 AM



First & Wesley United Methodist Church
89 Center Street, West Haven
Handicap accessible

FIRSTWESLEYUMC.ORG

November Birthdays

1 - Jacob Jerrell
2 - Sarah Santamauro
3 - Dolores Danz
4 - Sue McMillian
6 - Jim Jerrell
Kelly Stuhlman Roaslet
8 - Renee Bobko
12 - Oliver Dougherty
13 - Emily Kopec
Jennifer Kopec
14 - Ava Hollister
16 - Eric Dzikas
19 - Abe McKim
21 - Ann Yost
22 - Becky Baker
25 - John Poe IV
Jocelyn Moscato

November Anniversaries

1 - Shelby and Louis Argentino
2 - Ann and Art Yost
11 - Audie and Tom Hollister
13 - Beth and Jim Ammon
25 - Sharon and Jim Stuhlman

PLEASE NOTE: If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please let the church office know so we can update our list and make sure you are not missed.

If you would like to include someone for birthdays or anniversaries, please see below. Example- name change, address change, marriage, birth, death, etc. Email: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com or send to church office.

Being Alone in the Church

For those of you who need to go into the church, do not forget to sign in each time you enter the church and if you are going to be alone in the church, call one of the numbers below. Thank you!

2024 contact numbers

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Helen Smith | 203-444-2362 | Council Chair |
| Jim Stuhlman | 203-435-1790 | Trustee Chair |
| Mary Rolfe | 203-641-0929 | Layleader |

West Haven Elks Soup Kitchen

We invite our veterans, seniors, and anyone in need of a free hot meal, to join us the 1st Wednesday of every month from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm Open to West Haven residents at 265 Main Street, West Haven

Sunday School



Come learn about the character of God, the work of Christ, and the means of living in right relationship to God and all people. We meet every Sunday morning following the Children's Moment during the 10:00 service.

Our program is open to all kids ages 4 and up. Our youth are invited to rotate through as helpers. Please go to the church website

<https://www.firstwesleyumc.org/sunday-school-registration> to register your child/youth for Sunday school or ask a Sunday School teacher for a registration form.





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89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516
Phone (203) 933-8795
www.firstwesleyumc.org
Email: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com
Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc.
Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 10:00am”

The November Newsletter

STRONGER TOGETHER



“We can do all things
through Christ who strengthens us.”
(Philippians 4:13)

IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:00 AM

COME JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY!